

Indiana Trails Advisory Board
March 1, 2012 – 3:00 PM
Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room 14

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tim Garrett – All Terrain Vehicle Users
Nancy Tibbett – Bicyclists
Yvette Rollins – Equestrians
Tim Calahan – Hikers
Jeff Fetterer – Mountain Bike Users
Tom Hartman – Off-Road Motorcyclists
Melody Jones – Parks & Recreation Agencies
Melisa Culbertson – Trail Support Groups
Ric Edwards – Users with Disabilities
Daniel Plath – Water Trail Users

DNR Staff:

Dale Brier
David Cox
Carman Jackson
Leah Kopp

Guests:

Al Pivonka – ABATE
Gary Williams – ABATE

Proxies:

Ron Targos – Four Wheel Drive Users
Pat Martin – Higher Education/Health
Richard Vonnegut – Pedestrians

Welcome

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins welcomed everyone.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Five new board members were introduced. The new members include Tim Garrett – All Terrain Vehicle Users, John McNichols – Higher Education/Health, Melody Jones – Parks and Recreation Agencies, Ric Edwards – Users with Disabilities, and Daniel Plath – Water Trail Users. John McNichols was represented by his proxy Pat Martin.

Officer Elections

Tom Hartman nominated Yvette Rollins for chairwoman. Melisa Culbertson seconded. Tom Hartman moved nominations be closed. Jeff Fetterer seconded. Motion carried. Yvette was elected chairwoman. Yvette Rollins nominated Tom Hartman for vice chairman. Tim Calahan seconded. Melody Jones moved nominations be closed. Tim Calahan seconded. Motion carried. Tom was elected vice chairman.

Review and Approval of December 2011 Minutes

Tim Calahan asked about the hikers report by Larry Boley concerning the Knobstone trail. Dale Brier said a tree dropped on the trail and Nila Armstrong was working on the matter with timber management. Tom Hartman moved to approve the minutes. Melisa Culbertson seconded. Motion carried.

Department Report

David welcomed new TAB members and congratulated Dan Plath on the birth of his son Matthew Robert. He reminded everyone that at the 2011 March meeting a TAB attendance requirement was passed. Members must attend meetings or send a proxy. A member not represented in person or by proxy for two consecutive meetings

may be replaced. With the proxy provision, TAB members can easily have perfect attendance. David thanked the board for its excellent attendance record since the requirement went into effect.

RTP funding update – RTP grant applications are due by May 1. At the June TAB meeting, the projects will be presented for recommendation before being sent to DNR Director Carter for approval. At this point, Indiana's grant funding is approved for \$590,000. Usually, we are approved for approximately \$1.4 million. There is no new transportation bill passed. It seems Transportation Enhancement and the Safe Routes to School programs are in greater jeopardy than RTP funding. David reminded the board it cannot lobby but individuals and user groups can contact their legislators on their own to share opinions on issues. TAB is thankful for the funds Indiana has received over the years. By March 31, a vote is needed on whether to extend the highway bill. Melody Jones asked if a board member's agency can apply for RTP funds. He replied that any community or user group which qualifies could apply.

Old Business

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – The Hoosier Outdoor Experience will be held September 15-16, 2012 at Fort Harrison State Park in Lawrence. All user groups are encouraged to participate.

2012 Trails Conference Planning – The conference will be held November 2-3, 2012. It will be a two day conference. There is a budget of \$10,000.00. The conference will be held in Evansville with Tom Hartman working on a location. Several different themes were tossed around. Yvette asked for further input because save-the-date postcards need sent out. Melody Jones wanted to know if TAB was looking at this as a workshop. Yvette explained that it was a workshop with a possible field trip to Interlake. A workshop would include something for everyone.

David asserted that a lot of work must be done today at the meeting since there are many decisions to be made, committees to be formed, and major items to be addressed. The committees need to meet between regular TAB meetings. The committees can meet via teleconference for convenience. Yvette suggested save-the-date cards need to be put in the mail very soon.

Tom Hartman talked with the Evansville Trails Coalition who is on board with the conference. He said there is a county park near Evansville that would be available to host the conference if there were 100 or less registrations. Yvette added that the first thing to be done was to confirm a location. Melody mentioned a lot of departments are broke so a one night stay would be more feasible than a two night stay. Tim Garrett said a three day conference would be too heavy on time restraints. Melody suggested one day for off-road and one day for building trails so attendees could plan when they want to attend. Carman Jackson said she would like to see the conference focus on the similarities between different trail uses. David agreed that trail groups have more in common than different. Yvette said the focus should be on common ground. She likes the "Trails for All," theme because it encompasses everyone by pointing out common ground. Another suggestion by Tim Callahan was to change it slightly and make it "More Trails for All". TAB agreed this would be the theme.

Yvette asked everyone to send her a list of those they thought should receive the postcard. She requested the list be sent to her no later than March 9. She intends to have cards ready to hand out at the Greenways and Trails conference. Some will be mailed and others will be delivered electronically. Dan Plath said he is on the DNR's Coastal Advisory Board for northwest Indiana so he can coordinate with Mike Molnar to get a list for the region.

Yvette brought up registration coordination for the conference. David said the IPRA would be a good organization to handle registrations. Melody added that she would check with the new director to see what she could do.

Yvette believes the conference's primary focus should be user groups getting along and how they can intermingle on trails. The second focus would be trail building for all instead of trail building for one user group. She asked if

breakout sessions would be appropriate or everything all together. She also asked for committee volunteers so there would be forward movement and she expects everyone to serve on a committee. She suggested committees for topics, registration, conference welcoming, and getting speakers. David suggested topics be decided so speakers could be scheduled because their calendars fill up quickly.

Committees:

Topics: Pat Martin, Dan Plath, Melisa Culbertson

Budget Committee: Nancy Tibbett, Richard Vonnegut, Yvette Rollins, Tom Hartman

Welcome Committee: Tom Hartman, Al Pivonka (ABATE), Jay Jackson (ABATE)

Registration: Melody Jones, Richard Vonnegut, Nancy Tibbett

Location: Tom Hartman

Speakers: Emcee-Rory Robinson (NPS), each TAB member submit names to Jeff Fetterer by March 9.

Mailings: Yvette Rollins needs lists of names for Save-the-Date postcards by March 9.

Budget/Finance: Nancy Tibbett, Richard Vonnegut, Yvette Rollins, Tom Hartman, 1st report on March 9

Fieldtrip to Interlake: Cost of transportation, lunch at Interlake and tour, shelter house and amenities will be completed in June

Tom said he would initially take part on all the committees since he is in charge of the location. Yvette said everyone would get the same information. No registration fee has been decided yet. Yvette would like to keep it as inexpensive as possible. Hotel rates will allow for an affordable conference. Sponsorship packets need to be set up as soon as possible. After discussion, it was decided the conference would be Friday, November 2- Saturday, November 3, with an attendance goal of 100. The target group is all user groups. Meals will be part of the registration fee. The next step is to get as much done as possible to make this a great conference. The committees can meet by either webinar or conference call. Tom said this conference is about putting together a conference that TAB can be proud of and introduce the rest of the state to their activities.

Tom said the first year will be the most difficult because everything is a little vague since this is something TAB has never done. Nancy Tibbett feels there are many unanswered questions. She understands this is a testing year but to have a great conference and great representation there must be appropriate planning. All recommendations must go to Yvette by the end of next week.

Safety Training Issues - Dexter Luck was chairing the Safety Training Committee but stepped down from TAB as well as the committee. Mark Price and Len Neisler are the current committee members. Yvette announced there was a press release that went out about the safety training for ATVs.

New Business

2012 National Trails Day Event 20th Anniversary – National Trails Day is Saturday, June 2, 2012. The theme is “America’s Largest Trailgating Party”. Events may be registered at www.americanhiking.org.

User Group Reports

Trail Support Groups – Melisa Culbertson did not have anything new to report because it’s winter.

Users with Disabilities – Ric Edwards reported there would be an ADA Conference at the Hyatt on May 30- June 1.

Mountain Bike Users – Jeff Fetterer said the mountain bike website is www.hmba.org. HMBA received a \$10,000 grant from REI for developing trails at Fort Harrison SP. The RTP grant for Southwestway Park in Indy is moving forward with construction starting in May. HMBA’s annual meeting is March 17 at Fort Harrison.

Pedestrians – Richard Vonnegut reported they were at the Boat Sport and Travel Show representing many different trail groups. He gave an update about the National Transportation Bill.

All Terrain Vehicle Users – Tim Garrett reported the Redbird Foundation determined expansion of theme based events was very important. They will host an Easter event. Most events are family oriented so that everyone can enjoy them.

Four Wheel Drive Users – Ron Targos said four wheel drive user groups are down because of the economy. Clubs are reporting slight losses because most people are parking their Hummers, Jeeps, etc due to gas prices. They are planning a few events.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – Tom Hartman reported two motorcycle groups are putting in single track trail at Interlake. The first scheduled event is April 15.

Water Trail Users – Dan Plath said the National Recreation Water Trail will go around Lake Michigan in 3-4 years consisting of 1600 miles. It will be the world's largest water trail. They are cleaning up the east branch of the Little Calumet River and working with the National Park Service. NWIPA received a grant from American Rivers to teach paddling to youth.

Bicyclists – Nancy Tibbett had to leave for another meeting so she will report in June.

Hikers – Tim Calahan handed out a paper with Knobstone Trail repair requests. This was the first repair request he had seen so he was curious if other user groups prepare a document similar to this before they do trail maintenance. Carman stated any groups doing work on state properties must do it. Much discussion followed about trails being ADA compliant. Ric Edwards said there are standards that must be ADA compliant. There are standards that must be adhered to. Melisa Culbertson suggested this could be a topic discussed in November at the conference. Yvette added hikers are not being treated differently and everyone follows the same rules. Tim said he would feel better if he could see some documents. Yvette assured him she would send him emails with documentation.

Higher Education/Health – Pat Martin reported John McNichols wants to focus on uniting health users of trails.

Parks and Recreation Agencies - Melody Jones announced the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted a new regional bikeway plan and Complete Streets concept. Westfield has a large event called Westfield Rocks the 4th of July. It begins with a morning bicycle event. Westfield Yamaha sponsors a motorcycle ride. She said Westfield is cutting edge by providing trail guides they put together last year. You can visit their website to get trail information. Most Westfield trails are multi-use trails. For safety, they have emergency mile markers on the trails. She thinks this is something that could go state wide

Equestrians – Yvette Rollins said the Greenways conference is March 6 at the Marriott. The Hoosier Horse Fair is coming up April 13-15. In March, they will have a fundraiser at O'Bannon Woods SP along with a 50 mile ride.

Announcements

National Trails Day – June 2, 2012

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – September 15-16, 2012 Fort Harrison State Park

Gary Williams announced the Miracle Trail Ride and race is scheduled for June 16-17 at Lawrence County Recreation Park.

Carman reported on RTP dollars at work. They had trail training that included several off-road groups. She said it would benefit properties with part of the training being paid by RTP funds. At Interlake, concrete is being poured for accessibility and a shelter with picnic tables will be built.

Future meeting dates

June 21

September 6

December 6 – Indiana Government Center

David asked for volunteers to host the June and September meetings. Tim Garrett agreed to host a meeting at Redbird. He will inform David which month works for the Redbird Foundation. The other meeting will be in the northern region.

Adjournment

Jeff Fetterer moved for adjournment. Ron Targos seconded. Motion carried.

